

REMARKS

Claim 1-30 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1-8 and 16-23 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to selected claims. In addition, Claim 30 has been added to provide an additional scope of protection.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action of June 8, 2007.

A review of the specification reveals that the various embodiments are closely related and do not require such a divergent search so as to overburden the Examiner. Accordingly, neither the Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study several separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention. The making of an election of species is not mandatory in all instances where it is possible to do so. Rather, the Examiner may use discretion and choose not to make an election of species where circumstances warrant. It is submitted that such is the case in the instant application.

Nevertheless, pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 809.2(a), Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Species I, Figures 10-12. It is submitted that Claims 1-6, 12-16, 24, and 30 read on the elected species.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010 All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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